Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a discrete pre-metered dose of medicament; and a dose protector comprising covering means, wherein said covering means is in biased contact with said dose and opens in response to at least one condition occurring in the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite direction, said at least one condition being selected from the group consisting of airflow through the airway and pressure drop across the airway, wherein the covering means is adapted such that on occurrence of said at least one condition said at least one condition acts on the covering means to cause it to open.

2. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means is only open in the presence of the at least one condition in the first direction after which said covering means returns to a resting position.

3. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the presence of the at least one condition in the first direction is caused by patient inhalation.

4-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means responds by covering the dose more effectively when the at least one condition is in the second direction.

7. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 6 wherein presence of the at least one condition in the second direction is caused by the patient exhaling.

8. (Currently amended) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 where the covering means comprises ~~one or more poppet valves, diaphragm valves, rotary valves, reciprocating valves,~~ a sealing flap ~~flaps or a combination thereof~~.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 10 wherein the said container is a pocket.

12. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dose or container retaining the dose has a surrounding rim.

13. (Currently amended) An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a pocket in the form of a blind cavity having a sole open end and containing a single pre-metered dose of medicament; wherein said housing comprises at least one sealing flap in biased contact with said pocket and providing a cover for the open end of the pocket; wherein the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket is broken by airflow through the airway in a first direction but not in a second opposite direction, wherein said airflow across the airway in the first direction acts on the sealing flap to uncover the pocket and the open the open end of the pocket ~~to be opened~~.

14. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is spaced away from the pocket by the airflow once contact with the pocket is broken.

15. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 additionally comprising a closure mechanism wherein the at least one sealing flap is held in contact with the pocket by a closure means which prevents the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket being broken by airflow through the airway in any direction.

16. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 15 wherein the pocket has a surrounding rim.

17. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the said sealing flap vibrates in the airflow once the contact with the pocket is broken.

18. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is made of thermoset rubber.

19. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 13 wherein the sealing flap is of equivalent or slightly reduced width relative to the distance between the inside walls of the housing at the base of the walls of the housing where the sealing flap is in contact with the pocket.

20. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 19 wherein the distance between the inside walls of the housing increases as the distance away from the pocket increases.

21. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said covering means is spaced away from the dose to coincide with the presence of the at least one condition in the first direction once the contact with the dose is broken.

22. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means vibrates in the at least one condition in the first direction.

23. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises a valve flap such that when the airflow is in a second opposite direction, the airflow exits the housing by means of the valve flap.

24. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said covering means protects the dose from the patient exhaling into the device, moisture contamination, particulate contamination and loss of the dose or a combination thereof.

25. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising a fixed seal.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) An inhaler as claimed claim 1 further comprising a mouthpiece in communication with said airway.

28. (Original) An inhaler as claimed in claim 27 wherein the said inhaler is a dry powder inhaler.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) A method of administering a medicament to a patient comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a patient an inhaler as claimed in claim 27, and

(b) administering to the patient medicament therefrom by said patient inhaling through said mouthpiece.

31. (Currently amended) An inhaler comprising a housing defining an airway; a single pre-metered dose of medicament retained in a dose container which is a pocket having the form of a blind cavity having a sole open end; and a dose protector comprising a covering means for said dose which is in the form of at least one sealing flap and which is movable from a covering position, in which it is in biased contact with the pocket and providing a cover for the open end of the pocket, and an open position, in which the contact between the at least one sealing flap and the pocket is broken, wherein the at least one sealing flap for the dose is adapted so that it is only able to move from the closed position to the open position in response to at least one condition occurring in the airway in a first direction but not in a second, opposite, direction, said at least one condition being selected from the group consisting of airflow through the airway and pressure drop across the airway, wherein the covering means is adapted such that on occurrence of said at least one condition, said at least one condition acts on the covering means to cause it to open the open end of the pocket.

Add the following New Claims:

32. (New) The inhaler of claim 1, wherein said inhaler is a unit dose inhaler with the pre-metered dose being the only dose in the inhaler.

33. (New) The inhaler of claim 13, wherein said inhaler is a unit dose inhaler with the pre-metered dose being the only dose in the inhaler.

34. (New) The inhaler of claim 31, wherein said inhaler is a unit dose inhaler with the pre-metered dose being the only dose in the inhaler.